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ROY BLUNT
MISSOURI

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 17, 2011

COMMITTEES.
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE, SCIENCE
AND TRANSPORTATION
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

The Honorable Daniel Elliott, III
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Ex Parte 705

Dear Chairman Elliott:

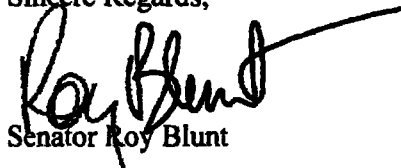
I write to express my support for a vibrant freight rail industry in Missouri and across the nation.

With over 4,000 miles of Class I track, nearly 7,000 employees and more than 400 million tons of freight moved throughout Missouri last year, freight rail is a vital part of the Missouri economy. As an industry that pays for and finances its own infrastructure, U.S. freight railroads are set to invest nearly \$12 billion this year in the nation's rail system support over 200,000 jobs.

The challenges facing the industry today are unique as greater demand has strained rail capacity and increased pressure to update and expand much needed infrastructure. Any action to adopt policies that inhibit investment and slow the growth of infrastructure during these economic times would be unwise.

As the Surface Transportation Board meets to discuss the future of freight rail, efforts must be made to encourage the investment and expansion of freight rail infrastructure. I look forward to working with you and other stakeholders to continue the success of the past by ensuring affordable access to freight rail without compromising the policy of limited regulation.

Sincere Regards,


Senator Roy Blunt